

REMARKS**I. Claim Rejection – Double Patenting**

Obviousness-type double patenting is the only remaining rejection set forth in the outstanding final Office Action. All pending claims are rejected for obviousness-type double patenting in view of a combination of two or more patents. Each double patenting rejection is at least based on the commonly owned US 6,633,792 (the “‘792 patent”), issued October 14, 2003, to Folestad et al. (“Folestad”) in combination with US 5,750,996 to Drennen, III et al. (“Drennen”). With respect to certain claims, Folestad and Drennen are combined with yet a third and fourth reference to support the rejection. The double patent rejections are summarized in the following table:

CLAIMS	CITED PATENTS	
1, 2, 7-9, 13-18, 20, 22-25, 27, 31, 32, 37-39, 41, 47, 48 and 53	Folestad + Drennen	
4-6, 28-30, 35 and 36	Folestad + Drennen	US 4,125,391 to Van Laethem (“Van Laethem”)
10, 33, 42-44 and 50	Folestad + Drennen	US 4,993,264 to Cody et al. (“Cody”)
11 and 45	Folestad + Drennen	US 6,038,525 to Maguire et al.
12, 34, 46 and 52	Folestad + Drennen	Van Laethem + US 6,248,363 to Patel et al.
19 and 40	Folestad + Drennen	US 5,420,681 to Woodruff
49 and 51	Folestad + Drennen	Van Laethem + Cody

Applicants maintain that the rejections are improper for the reasons of record. However, to enjoy the benefits afforded by a U.S. patent, Applicants submit concurrently herewith, under separate cover, a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to the ‘792 patent, thereby overcoming the obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

FROM W&C LLP 19TH FL.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a good faith attempt to respond to the Office Action. Claims 1, 2, 4-20, 22-25 and 27-53 are directed to patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

If an extension fee or any other fee is required in connection with this communication, authorization is hereby given to charge such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

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Respectfully submitted,


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